

What is Claimed is:

1. A service providing system, comprising:  
at least one service providing apparatus for processing information to provide a service,  
at least one service requesting apparatus for processing information to request the service from the service providing apparatus, and  
at least one service mediating apparatus connected to the service providing apparatus and the service requesting apparatus via a network,

wherein the service requesting apparatus receives a voice input indicating an instruction as to a service requested by a user of the service requesting apparatus,  
the service mediating apparatus specifies a service providing apparatus which is to perform a process corresponding to the instruction,

based on the specified service providing apparatus, the service mediating apparatus specifies an information processing apparatus which is to recognize a voice input from the user, and

the specified service providing apparatus processes information to provide a service based on speech recognition performed by the specified information processing apparatus.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the service mediating apparatus specifies the information processing apparatus based on information indicating a corresponding relationship between the specified service providing apparatus and the information processing apparatus which is to recognize the voice.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the service mediating apparatus includes a storage device for storing the information indicating the corresponding relationship between the specified service providing apparatus and the information processing apparatus which is to recognize the voice.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the means for specifying an information processing apparatus specifies the information processing apparatus based on information

10. The apparatus of claim 9, comprising:  
a storage device for storing the information indicating the corresponding relationship between the specified service providing apparatus and the information processing apparatus which is to recognize the voice.

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13. The apparatus of claim 10, comprising:  
means for connecting, via the network, with the information processing apparatus  
which is to recognize the voice.

14. A service mediating apparatus for processing information to mediate a service, the service mediating apparatus comprising:

a receiving device for receiving user voice information indicating an instruction as to a service requested by a user of a service requesting apparatus,

a storage device for storing a program for specifying a service corresponding to an instruction indicated by the voice information and, based on the specified service, specifying a speech recognition program for recognizing the voice information,

a processing device for, according to the program, specifying the service corresponding to the instruction indicated by the user voice information and, based on the specified service, specifying a speech recognition program which is to recognize the user

voice information, the processing device being connected to the receiving device and the storage device, and

an output device for outputting information for recognizing the user voice information to an information processing apparatus which is to recognize a voice according to the specified speech recognition program.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, comprising:

an additional storage device for indicating a corresponding relationship between the service and the speech recognition program,

wherein the processing device specifies the speech recognition program using the additional storage device.

16. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the corresponding relationship is described by a voice extended markup language.

17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the apparatus connects with the information processing apparatus having a speech recognition engine via a network.

18. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the storage device holds a speech recognition program, and the processing device recognizes the user voice information using the speech recognition program held by the storage device.

19. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the receiving device is connectable to a service requesting apparatus through a network to receive the user voice information from the service requesting apparatus through the network.

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